

Sylvania girl collecting donations for Peace Passers

Written by Kaylyn Johnston
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SYLVANIA- Sylvania residents Karen and Lexa Bauer recently became involved with a national organization called Peace Passers and hope to involve the Sylvania community in their goal to share new and used soccer equipment with third world countries.

Peace Passers is an organization that works with various mission groups to ship new and used soccer equipment to countries around the world. The organization was founded by five former collegiate soccer players who discovered soccer was a way for individuals to unite amongst political and social turmoil. In many countries, a child's level of education is based on their soccer skills. Many of these children, however, learn to play soccer using makeshift materials and equipment. Peace Passers works to promote peace and unity through soccer and help give children in developing nations a jump-start to their education through the use of better soccer equipment.

Lexa, age 10, asked her classmates and friends to bring soccer equipment to her 10th birthday party. She then enlisted the support of Pacesetter and the Maumee Soccer Center, who both allowed her to place a collection bin at their facilities. Lexa was able to send 25 jersey sets, 15 balls, 17 pairs of soccer cleats, 11 pairs of indoor turf shoes, 10 pairs of shorts and 8 pairs of shin guards to Guatemala.

When asked how Peace Passers has changed her life, Lexa responded, "It has driven me to pay a lot more attention to all the people who don't have as much as we have. It made me wonder what I can do for people in general who need things. If everybody did something, even if its small like what we are doing, I truly believe that there would be much less suffering and much more living. This is my way of putting my mark on the world."

Lexa's mother, Karen Bauer, also has been changed by her involvement with Peace Passers.

"It has given both of us a sense that if we start small, things grow and people catch on. We really can make a difference," she said.

Numerous other Sylvania organizations now support Lexa's efforts, including Pacesetter Soccer Club where Lexa plays, the UPS store on Central Avenue, Sylvania Southview High School and Charlie's Edible's and Ice Cream. Lexa is hosting a fundraiser at Charlie's Ice Cream and Edible's on March 9 from 5-8 p.m. Also, donations can be placed in collection bins located at Tam-O-Shanter (Sylvania Recreation), Pacesetter (Key Bank Field at Central and Reynolds), and Gold Medal Indoor Sports in Perrysburg. Contact Karen Bauer at klb_np@yahoo.com for more information or to personally place donations.

To learn more about Peace Passers, visit their website at www.peacepassers.org.



Sylvania resident Lexa Bauer, 10, recently began collecting donations for Peace Passers to send soccer supplies to Guatemala.